

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MADRID 03889 051704Z

44

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 EURE-00 OMB-01 /086 W

----- 061784

P 051610Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2069

INFO AMEMBASSY RABAT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

USUN PRIORITY 477

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LISBON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 3889

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SP, SS

SUB: DIPLOMATIC MOVES ON SAHARA

1. MFA DIRECTOR OF MIDDLE EASTERN AFFAIRS (AGUIRREBENGOA)  
DESCRIBED LATEST SPANISH DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS IN SEARCH OF  
SAHARA SETTLEMENT AS FOLLOWS TO POL COUNSELOR:

2. WITHIN PAST FEW DAYS MFA HAS CALLED IN AMBASSADORS  
OF MAURITANIA, MOROCCO AND ALGERIA TO INFORM THEM IN  
ADVANCE THAT GOS WOULD SOON GIVE THEM FORMAL INVITATIONS  
FOR FOUR-PARTY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS FUTURE  
OF SAHARA. MFA HAS STILL RECEIVED NO READINGS FROM  
PROSPECTIVE INVITEES AS TO THEIR LIKELY RESPONSE  
BUT AT THIS TIME IT HAS NO REASON TO BELIEVE THAT GOM  
HAS DROPPED ITS OBJECTION TO PARTICIPATION IN ANY SUCH  
CONFERENCE OF INTERESTED PARTIES THAT INCLUDES ALGERIA.  
GOS HAS NO STRONG PREFERENCES ON VENUE TO CONFERENCE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MADRID 03889 051704Z

3. IF ONE OR MORE PARTIES REJECT SPANISH INVITATION, GOS WILL THEN REQUEST SECRETARY GENERAL OF UN TO CONVOKE SUCH A CONFERENCE UNDER HIS OWN AUSPICES. VISIT OF UN SECRETARY GENERAL KURT WALDHEIM TO MADRID, NOW PLANNED FOR JUNE 11-13 IS RESULT OF LONGSTANDING INVITATION UNRELATED TO CURRENT SAHARA PROBLEM, THOUGH OPPORTUNITY WILL OF COURSE BE USED TO DISCUSS SAHARA ISSUE. ICJ OPINION HAS BECOME MORE IRRELEVANT THAN EVER IN LIGHT OF EVENTS AND NO JURIDICAL DECISION BY ICJ LIKELY TO BE VERY HELPFUL IN SOLVING DISPUTE THAT IS EMINENTLY POLITICAL.

4. AGUIRREBENGOA NOTED THAT IF CONFERENCE OF INTERESTED STATES CANNOT BE SUCCESSFULLY CONVOKED EVEN UNDER UN AUSPICES, SPAIN'S "HANDS WILL BE CLEAN" AS IT WILL HAVE MADE HONEST EFFORT TO SEEK SOLUTION AMONG INTERESTED PARTIES AND NEXT STEP WILL BE UP TO UN. HE STRESSED THAT SPAIN DOES NOT INTEND TO PREJUDGE RESULTS OF ANY MULTI-PARTY CONFERENCE, IS WILLING TO CONSIDER ANY POSSIBLE SOLUTION TO SAHARA QUESTION (NOT EXCLUDING ANNEXATION OR PARTITION) THAT OTHER INTERESTED PARTIES MAY PROPOSE, AND IS NOT COMMITTED TO CREATION OF INDEPENDENT STATE OR TO SURRENDER OF SOVEREIGNTY TO ANY PARTICULAR SAHARAN POLITICAL FORCE.

5. SPEAKING PERSONALLY, HE COMMENTED THAT SPAIN, IN ITS WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER ALL OPTIONS, HAS HAD TO WITHDRAW SOMEWHAT FROM WHAT UNTIL NOW HAS BEEN ITS STRONGLY HELD CONVICTION THAT WISHES OF SAHARAN POPULATION MUST BE PRIMORDIAL IN ANY SETTLEMENT. HE ADDED THAT IN RECENT YEARS SPAIN HAS ASSUMED THAT ITS VIEWS ON SELF-DETERMINATION COINCIDED CLOSELY WITH PREVAILING UN DOCTRINES ON DECOLONIZATION, BUT RECENT UN APPROACH TO SAHARA QUESTION IMPLIED LESS CONCERN IN UN ABOUT OVERRIDING IMPORTANCE OF WISHES OF LOCAL POPULATION. HE NOTED THAT, IF INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE WERE HELD, QUESTIONS AS TO WHETHER INDEPENDENT SAHARA WOULD EXIST WOULD BE DECIDED NOT BY SAHRANS THEMSELVES BUT BY INTERESTED PARTY STATES SURROUNDING THEM.

6. ASKED HOW SPAIN WOULD PROCEED WITH INTENDED RAPID DECOLONIZATION IF AGREEMENT AMONG INTERESTED PARTIES COULD NOT BE OBTAINED, HE REEMPHASIZED THAT SPAIN OFFICIALLY NOT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MADRID 03889 051704Z

COMMITTED TO ANY COURSE OF ACTION AND IS KEEPING OPTIONS OPEN. SPEAKING SPECULATIVELY, HE THOUGHT THAT IF INTERNATIONALLY NEGOTIATED SOLUTION NOT FEASIBLE, SPAIN WOULD BE FORCED TO GO AHEAD WITH REFERENDUM AND SURRENDER SOVEREIGNTY AS PLEDGED IN MAY 23 STATEMENT. FOLISARIO HAS SHOWN ITSELF TO BE STRONG FORCE WITHIN SAHARA, HE ADDED, BUT THAT IS NOT TO SAY THAT SPAIN HAS DECIDED TO RECOGNIZE IT AND DEAL WITH IT. MORE MODERATE INDEPENDENCE GROUP

PUNS, DESPITE DEFECTION OF LEADER TO RABAT, STILL HAS  
IMPORTANT POCKETS OF STRENGTH AND CANNOT BE DISREGARDED.  
STABLER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DEMARCHE, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 05 JUN 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975MADRID03889  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750196-1146  
**From:** MADRID  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19750678/aaaactdg.tel  
**Line Count:** 118  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 MAY 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2003 by SmithRJ>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DIPLOMATIC MOVES ON SAHARA  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PBOR, SP, SS, MR, MO, AG, MFA  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006